

VZCZCXYZ0000
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHGT #2121 2971321
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 241321Z OCT 07
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4171
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 4621
RHMFIUU/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 002121

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

SAN SALVADOR FOR LEGATT
NSC FOR DAN FISK

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [SNAR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KJUS](#) [ASEC](#) [ES](#) [GT](#)

SUBJECT: PARLACEN MURDER UPDATE: 16 PRISON GUARDS RELEASED
FOR INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

REF: GUATEMALA 861 AND PREVIOUS

¶1. Sixteen prison guards, accused of facilitating the February 25 murder of four National Civil Police (PNC) officers in El Boqueron prison, were released for insufficient evidence. The four murdered PNC officers had been incarcerated in the maximum security prison in Santa Rosa as suspects in the February 19 murder of three Salvadoran parliamentarians and their driver (reftel).

¶2. A judge in Santa Rosa ordered the release of the 16 prison guards and dismissal of the case in response to a request from the Public Ministry following an investigation of the murder. The guards were accused of facilitating access to the PNC officers.

¶3. According to spokesperson Luis Castro, the Public Ministry requested the release of the prison guards and dismissal of the case for insufficient evidence. Reportedly, the guards were on duty on the day of the murder but were in a rest area and not in the detention area of the prison.

¶4. The Director and Deputy Director of El Boqueron prison and 13 alleged gang members remain in custody in connection with the murder. The case against the alleged gang members is scheduled to begin later this month.
Derham